

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 MCT-01

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FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1532

INFO AMEMBAESY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNAVCOMMSTA LONDON DERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 004

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, UK, EI

SUBJECT: PEACE PEOPLE ENVISAGE PEACE DEVELOPMENT ASSEMBLY

1. BELFAST PEACE PEOPLE ISSUED SIX-PAGE MANIFESTO JANUARY 6 OUTLINING DIRECTIONS AND AIMS OF MOVEMENT. FIRST PRIORITY IS GIVEN TO DEDICATION OF INDIVIDUAL TO WORK OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT. FROM INDIVIDUAL DEDICATION, ORGANIZING WILL MOVE FROM HOUSE TO HOUSE AND THEN STREET TO STREET. WHEN COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS FORMED THESE WILL ELECT DELEGATES TO A COMMUNITY PEACE-DEVELOPMENT ASSEMBLY. THE ASSEMBLY WILL DECIDE POLICIES AND SELECT THE EXECUTIVE.

2. AS COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS DEVELOP THEY WILL BE ENCOURAGED TO APPLY FOR MINI-BUSES TO FACILITATE MOBILITY AND FAMILIARITY BETWEEN GROUPS. PARTY OF ORGANIZATION RESPONSIBILITY WILL BE TO ASSIST THOSE WHO WISH TO "ESCAPE" FROM MEMBERSHIP IN PARAMILITARY ORGANIZATIONS. CONGEN NOTES "UNDERGROUND RAILWAY" TO WEST GERMANY ALREADY IN OPERATION.

3. MANIFESTO ACKNOWLEDGES "POLITICAL" NATURE OF INVOLVEMENT BUT DENIES INTENT TO ESTABLISH "POLITICAL PARTY." AMONG SUBJECTS
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IDENTIFIED FOR DISCUSSION ARE: EMERGING NORTHERN IRISH IDENTITY, ORGANIZATION OF EDUCATION, AND POSSIBILITY OF DEVOLUTION THROUGH A "CONFEDERATION OF THE BRITISH ISLES" (IN VAGUE EEC CONTEXT). MANIFESTO NOTED PEACE MOVEMENT IS "ONLY HOPE LEFT.....AS ALL THE CONVENTIONAL POLITICAL, CONSTITUTIONAL AND MILITARY ATTEMPTS HAVE FAILED BEFORE US."

4. THERE VERY LITTLE FAVORABLE INITIAL REACTION FROM LOCAL POLITICIANS OR MEDIA. SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC AND LABOUR PARTY (SDLP) POLITICIANS HAVE REACTED FIRST AND WITH MOST HOSTILITY. PEACE MOVEMENT INCREASINGLY BEING IDENTIFIED AS GENERALLY DOMINATED BY WORKING-CLASS ROMAN CATHOLICS HENCE MOST IMMEDIATE THREAT TO ESTABLISHED POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS IS TO SDLP. ALLIANCE PARTY LARGELY MIXED MIDDLE-CLASS LIBERALS AND, EXCEPT FOR TOP LEADERSHIP (NAPIER), ALLIANCE GENERALLY SUPPORTS PEACE MOVEMENT. LOCAL REPORTERS DISTRUSTFUL OF "MESSIANIC" EX-COLLEAGUE CIARAN MC KEOWN AND TAKE SOME DELIGHT IN REPORTING ADVERSE CRITICISM OF INTERNATIONAL JUNKETS OF "TRAVELING PEACE CIRCUIS." IT CLEAR PEACE PEOPLE HAVE REALIZED BASIC PROBLEMS AND WILL CONCENTRATE ON GRASS ROOTS ORGANIZATION AND EXPANSION ACROSS SECTARIAN LINES. NEXT FEW WEEKS WILL DETERMINE WHETHER PEACE MOVEMENT CAN ESTABLISH ON-GOING COMMUNITY GROUPS OR WILL DISAPPEAR LIKE PREDECESSORS.SPICER

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